

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03668 211011Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----064209 211013Z /10

O 210936Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9472
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 3668

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SO, ET, US, KE, MASS, OCLR
SUBJECT: REPLY TO SOMALI AIDE MEMOIRE

REF: (A) STATE 211455, (B) STATE 210478 (C) ADDIS 2927

1. PROPOSED APPROACH APPEARS ON THE WHOLE EXTREMELY POSITIVE.

2. EMBASSY FINDS "AS LONG AS SOMALIA'S NEIGHBORS FEEL
THREATENED" IN PARA 2 SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS, PERHAPS INTEN-
TIONALLY SO, BUT FEELS CLARIFICATION, AT LEAST IN OUR OWN
MINDS, WOULD BE USEFUL. AS REPORTED SEVERAL TIMES
PREVIOUSLY, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE PMGSE WILL EVER NOT
FEEL THREATENED AS LONG AS SIAD RULES IN MOGADISCIO. ALL
OFFICIALS, MODERATES AS WELL AS RADICALS, ARE ONE ON THAT
ISSUE: "THE SOMALI LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE HIS SPOTS."
NEVERTHELESS, A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM SAID -- IF MADE
PUBLICLY AND TO ALL OAU STATES -- TO "RECOGNIZE THE
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF ETHIOPIA S DRAWN" SHOULD BE
POSITIVELY RECEIVED IN ADDIS.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL NEAR-CRISIS IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS CAUSED LAST MARCH OVER ABSENCE OF MENTION OF
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DJIBOUTI'S BOUNDARIES IN PRES. CARTER'S CALL FOR ASSURANCES
FROM SIAD NOT TO "DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES
OF EITHER KENYA OR ETHIOPIA." FOR THAT REASON, EMBASSY
URGES THAT DJIBOUTI BE INCLUDED IN ANY REQUEST FOR
ASSURANCES FROM SIAD IF WE ARE TO TRY TO ELICIT POSITIVE
RESPONSE FROM PMGSE. (AS DEPT HAS ALREADY NOTED, MERE
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOMALIS "HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIM

AGAINST ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS" WOULD NOT WASH HERE AS PMGSE WOULD IMMEDIATELY POINT OUT GSDR DOES NOT CONSIDER OGADENIS AS NEIGHBORS BUT AS MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI FAMILY.)

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT PMGSE HAS NOT YET SHOWN ANY INCLINATION TO DROP ANY OF ITS FIVE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA: (A) SOMALIA MUST ABANDON ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY; (B) SOMALIA MUST CHANGE ITS FLAG, CONSTITUTION, AND TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AS REVEALED ON ITS PUBLISHED MAP; (C) SOMALIA MUST RESPECT THE OAU AND UN CHARTERS; (D) SOMALIA MUST STOP ITS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES; AND (E) SOMALIA MUST PAY COMPENSATION FOR THE DAMAGES IT CAUSED IN ETHIOPIA. THESE DEMANDS WERE REPEATED PUBLICLY AS RECENTLY AS JULY 2 (REF C), AND ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD SURMISED EARLIER IN THE YEAR THAT SOME OF THEM WERE NEGOTIABLE (PARTICULARLY REPARATIONS), THERE IS NO NEW EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THAT VIEW. REWRITING CONSTITUTION AND/OR CHANGING FLAG WOULD PROBABLY GO FURTHER TO ASSUAGE ETHIOPIANS THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE ACT OR ACTS, AND EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND/OR EMBASSY MOGADISCIO'S EVALUATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS HAPPENING WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AIDE MEMOIRE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, VISITS, SURVEYS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
DecapTION Date: 01 jan 1960
DecapTION Note:
Disposition Action: Released in Full
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: 200202525
Disposition Comment: RECORDING OF CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATION ACTION IN SAS (STATE ARCHIVING SYSTEM) BY THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THIS ACTION, WHO HAS APPROVED RECLASSIFICATION AND OR EXTENSION ACTION ON THIS DOCUMENT.
Disposition Date: 05 mar 2008
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: Released in Full by JOHN MILLS on 05-MAR-08 ;
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS03668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850104-2382
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabguw.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 610add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 211455, 78 STATE 210478, 78 ADDIS ABABA 2927
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1670426
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLY TO SOMALI AIDE MEMOIRE
TAGS: MASS, OCLR, SO, US, ET, KE, (NEWSOM, DAVID D), (ADDU, ABDULLAHI A), (MOOSE, RICHARD)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/610add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

